Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /059 W

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R 041713Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6172 INFO USMISSION USBERLIN AMEMBASSY BERLIN AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 03965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CORRIDOR CLEARANCE FOR GOODYEAR BLIMP

1. EMBASSY IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1976 RECEIVED APPLICATION FROM GOODYEAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR CLEARANCE FROM CAA'S TO TAKE GOODYEAR AIRSHIP EUROPA THROUGH CORRIDORS FOR VISIT TO BERLIN MAY 19-25 FOR PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING "ANTENNAS RADIATION TEST PATTERNS FOR GERMAN STATE TV". LETTER POINTED OUT THAT EUROPA HAD VISITED FRG EVERY SUMMER FROM 1972 THROUGH 1976 WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES. 2. AFTER CHECKING DOCUMENTS, ESPECIALLY AIR DIRECTORATE REVISED REGULATIONS GOVERNING FLIGHTS IN AIR CORRIDORS IN GERMANY AND THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE, OCTOBER 22. 1946, SECTION II, 15, B, AND CHECKING WITH FAA, BERLIN AERONAUTIC UNIT (BAU), AND GOODYEAR TO ESTABLISH THAT THE AIRSHIP HAD THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND CAPABILITIES FOR CORRIDOR OPERATION, THE APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO UK AND FRENCH CAA'S. THEY HAD NO OBJECTIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GOODYEAR WAS INFORMED THAT PROPOSED FLIGHT AND MISSION WAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE SUBJECT TO MAKING NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH BAU, RECEIVING COORIDOR BRIEFING AND MEETING OTHER CORRIDOR REQUIREMENTS.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY UK EMBASSY BONN GROUP MEMBER HAS RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER POLITICAL IMPLICATION OF

FLIGHT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE FINAL APPROVAL GIVEN. HE NOTES CORRECTLY THAT THIS WOULD BE FIRST FLIGHT OF AN AIRSHIP THROUGH CORRIDORS AND HAS INDICATED THAT UK EMBASSY MAY SEEK LONDON'S VIEWS.

4. WHILE SOVIETS MAY QUESTION THIS NOVEL CORRIDOR FLIGHT AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE AIRSHIP IN BERLIN, OUR READING IS THAT IT IS LEGAL AND THAT ANY SOVIET COMPLAINTS CAN THUS BE REJECTED. WE THEREFORE FAVOR ARGUING FOR ITS APPROVAL IF BRITISH OPEN THE QUESTION MORE FORMALLY.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS

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Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

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Subject: CORRIDOR CLEARANCE FOR GOODYEAR BLIMP TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, OCLR, WB, US, UK, FR, GOODYEAR

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